

Senate File 258 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 258

BY DONAHUE, TRONE GARRIOTT,
BOULTON, DOTZLER,
BISIGNANO, T. TAYLOR,
PETERSEN, WEINER,
QUIIRMBACH, WAHLS, JOCHUM,
CELSI, and GIDDENS

A BILL FOR

1 An Act providing for boards of directors of school districts to
2 include nonvoting student representatives.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 256.9, Code 2023, is amended by adding
2 the following new subsection:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 66. Develop and distribute to all school
4 districts a model program for the effective incorporation of
5 a student who is appointed to serve on the board of directors
6 of a school district as a nonvoting student representative
7 pursuant to section 279.4A. The model program shall include
8 suggested methods for an application and selection process for
9 the position of nonvoting student representative.

10 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. **279.4A Nonvoting student**
11 **representative.**

12 1. The board of directors of each school district shall
13 appoint at least one nonvoting student representative to serve
14 on the board of directors for a term of one year if the student
15 is enrolled in grade eleven or for a term of two years if the
16 student is enrolled in grade ten. The board of directors of
17 a school district shall develop an application and selection
18 process based on the model program developed pursuant to
19 section 256.9, subsection 66.

20 2. A nonvoting student representative shall have a seat
21 at the table of all board meetings and board subcommittee
22 meetings, shall have access to all nonconfidential board
23 meeting materials, and shall be allowed to participate in any
24 orientation provided to administrators or members of the board
25 of directors.

26 3. A nonvoting student representative may advocate
27 for student interests in board meetings, provide school
28 administrators and board members with student viewpoints,
29 assist in developing and monitoring the implementation of
30 education policy, and volunteer to perform other functions of
31 benefit to the students and the school district that the board
32 deems appropriate for the nonvoting student representative to
33 carry out.

34 4. Students enrolled in a school district in either grade
35 ten or eleven may apply to the board of directors of the school

1 district to serve as a nonvoting student representative.

2 5. A vacancy in the position of a nonvoting student
3 representative shall not be filled until the expiration of the
4 nonvoting student representative's term.

5 6. The board of directors of a school district shall notify
6 the parents or guardians of a nonvoting student representative
7 if the nonvoting student representative's grade point average
8 falls during the period in which the nonvoting student
9 representative serves on the board of directors of the school
10 district.

11 7. A nonvoting student representative shall have been
12 enrolled in the school district for at least one year prior to
13 the student representative's appointment.

14 EXPLANATION

15 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
16 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

17 This bill provides for boards of directors of school
18 districts to include nonvoting student representatives.

19 The bill requires the board of directors of each
20 school district to appoint at least one nonvoting student
21 representative to serve on the board for a term of one year if
22 the student is enrolled in grade 11 or for a term of two years
23 if the student is enrolled in grade 10. The bill also requires
24 the board to develop an application and selection process for
25 the nonvoting student representative that is based on a model
26 program the bill requires the director of the department of
27 education to develop.

28 The bill provides that a nonvoting student representative
29 shall have a seat at the table of all board meetings and board
30 subcommittee meetings, have access to all nonconfidential
31 board meeting materials, and be allowed to participate
32 in any orientation provided to administrators or members
33 of the board. The bill authorizes a nonvoting student
34 representative to advocate for student interests in board
35 meetings, provide school administrators and board members with

1 student viewpoints, assist in developing and monitoring the
2 implementation of education policy, and volunteer to perform
3 other functions of benefit to the students and the school
4 district.

5 The bill provides that students enrolled in a school
6 district in either grade 10 or 11 may apply to the board to
7 serve as a nonvoting student representative. Additionally, the
8 bill provides that a vacancy in the position of a nonvoting
9 student representative shall not be filled until the expiration
10 of the nonvoting student representative's term.

11 The bill requires the board to notify the parents or
12 guardians of a nonvoting student representative if the
13 nonvoting student representative's grade point average falls
14 during the period in which the nonvoting student representative
15 serves on the board.

16 The bill provides that a nonvoting student representative
17 shall have been enrolled in the school district for at least
18 one year prior to the student representative's appointment.